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Liberation Problem

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1. ☐ Bulgaria is totally united today in its foremost desire of liberation from Communism. All other problems of internal importance are therefore pushed to the background. 50X1-HUM
2. ☐ No one believes that liberation can be achieved without an outside intervention and, therefore, it is hoped that a war will come and that the Communists will be defeated. There are many people in the country, especially among the rural population, who are determined to take an active part in a future war. ☐ they only wish it would start and then ☐ sweep away the Communists within one night. 50X1-HUM
3. ☐ The population places all its hope in the US and firmly believes that liberation will come from there. They do not trust their neighbors because they fear that liberation brought by them from the Soviets may bring them continued slavery. Turkey is the least mistrusted. 50X1-HUM
4. ☐ Among the officers serving in the Bulgarian army, there are only very few who serve the Communists and do not believe in their creed. Also the selection among the soldiers is very careful [sic]. The regime recruits its tested Communist youth to serve in the ranks and does not allow any anti Communist elements to enter the army. Anti Communist youths are drafted to labor battalions. 50X1-HUM
5. ☐ Officers' cadres in the Bulgarian army are largely composed of people far below the accepted standards. A great part of them are almost illiterates both in the sense of military knowledge and general culture. Consequently, the Army works hard to train the men professionally. 50X1-HUM

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6. ☐ The Communists have already managed to train lower ranking officers. During the past 10 years, they have trained fully six to seven classes according to their own requirements. Party discipline is the most common criterion here. A man becomes an officer when he is fully subordinated to the Party and fully trusted. The number of officers is quite striking. Where there used to be say 100 officers, now there are 200 of them. ☐ younger officers will fight in case of war. 50X1-HUM
7. ☐ The weakest link in the Bulgarian army is in higher ranking officers. Almost every-body whom the Army has trained during the last 60 years has been expelled. Higher officers' cadres cannot be built up in a few years. The Communists realize that themselves and are making a great effort to cure this situation. This is the reason why a number of outstanding former officers were mobilized two years ago and made lecturers in military schools. It was not an uncommon occurrence that the res-50X1-HUM former officers were taken from prisons and labor camps. This was the case with General Asen Nikolow Sirakow. ☐

☐ Among others appointed lecturers at the Military Academy were: Lt Col Philip Stojanow Welew, outstanding military engineer; Lt Col Asen Lazarow Bundzalow, former chief of the Operational Division in the staff of the Eighth Infantry Division; Lt Col Atanas Sliwko, artillery specialist. 50X1-HUM

8. ☐ Soldiers are left at the mercy of the Communists and will follow their command. In case of a war, they will fight. In case of a general mobilization, this state of affairs will alter radically since the army will be filled with draftees from among the dissatisfied population. 50X1-HUM
9. ☐ The equipment of the Bulgarian army is at present good. Just before World War II, the Army received completely new equipment. Since the participation of the Bulgarian army in the war was rather limited, most of this equipment remained unused. This was supplemented by supplies of arms from the USSR, first of all tanks, artillery, motor transports, planes. A whole armored division is stationed in the Stara Zagora - Kazanluk - Nova Zagora area, and there are a few more of them in the country. 50X1-HUM
10. ☐ Soviet instructors are not seen openly. It is said that they are in staffs of bigger units, in the general staff and in the Ministry of Defense. 50X1-HUM
11. ☐ However, training of the Army is modelled entirely on the Soviet pattern. In all stages of military training there is much talk about Suvorov's tactics - to fight with opened forces, unprotected, to fight and die. Apart from this, people are not allowed to have any time to think. They are incessantly indoctrinated with Communist slogans. Both the officers' corps as well as the soldiers do not realize themselves that the USSR is preparing to sacrifice them and that at a given moment will use them for her own purposes. On the other hand, they do know that the USSR is not going to spare men and will not retreat.

Various Parties

12. ☐ the Communists in Bulgaria do not number more than 200 thousand to 250 thousand persons. The same number is estimated to total all those who serve the Communists, although they are not Communists themselves. These figures embrace both young and old, women, youths and men. 50X1-HUM
13. ☐ There is a considerably high percentage of people among the Communists who are not satisfied with the regime. Although they do not do anything actually to counteract the regime's moves, they do not endorse them. Their number is estimated at 15-20%. Mostly they are older Communists who belonged to the Party before 9 Sept 44. They envisaged Communist rule in a different way. 50X1-HUM

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14. ☐ In spite of very intensive efforts, the Communists have great difficulties recruiting new supporters. The reason is no doubt the very serious economic situation of the population. It can be stated almost without exaggeration that the Communist Party in Bulgaria recruits new supporters from its own circles, from among families who already belong to the Party, and has a very small influx from outside. 50X1-HUM
15. ☐ It is a fact that the Party has a very strong organization and uses strict discipline. This discipline is obvious only to the minority of the members while the majority accepts it mechanically. ☐ a great number of the Communists are ready to die for their beliefs. Part of them, especially young ones, really believe in the Communist doctrine. The most intensive propaganda efforts are directed towards them. They really believe that, although the situation today is very difficult, it is going to be ideal in the future, and it is even worth dying for this dream. There are others who are 'okalenii' (engaged in dirty work) and realize that they have no way out but just to go on because the end of the Communist regime will mean the end of their personal lives so they will defend it until they die. It is a recognized tactic of the Communist Party to put as many people as possible in such a position of no return. ☐ this is also why there are so many purges in the Party. For instance, in Bulgaria during the purge in the ranks of the Security Police almost the whole team which took an active part in bloody massacres after 9 Sept 44 has been dismissed. These people will always remain at the disposal of the Party because for them there is no way out. 50X1-HUM
16. ☐ It is the peasant population which is the most oppressed and therefore the most dissatisfied. This is where resistance is the greatest. The country masses are counting on the restoration in future of the Peasant Party; one-third of this population is supporting Dr G M Dimitrov, the other one-third are supporters of a moderate Peasant Party, who believe that when the moment of liberation comes a successor to Nikola Petkov will spring up in the country and lead the Party. The Communists pay very close attention to former Peasant Party leaders and the majority of inmates in labor camps are from these ranks. 50X1-HUM
17. ☐ A large number of people were released from labor camps in October 1953. In the district of Stara Zagora the following Peasant Party leaders were released, among others: Mintcho Drandarevski and Muntcho Ilief. Other more active leaders did remain in the camps, however, like brothers Slavi and Dimitar Popignatof. ☐ Dec 53, labor camps were still operating in Bulgaria. 50X1-HUM
18. ☐ The remaining one-third of the peasant population are supporters of all other parties, including the non-party system which was popular in Bulgaria before 9 Sept 44. Before the revolution of 19 May 34 in Bulgaria, there was a great decadency in the party setup of the country and, as a result, a large percentage of the population received the introduction of a non-party system with a sigh of relief. Many people remember that they were much better off when there were no Communists and no parties, and they dream of a return to this system. These are mostly radical people, while thinking people realize that once Communism collapses, the population will not go back to old patterns and that the system will be different than it used to be. It will not be possible to erase with one stroke all the changes introduced into the country's economy by the Communists. There will have to be a transitional period and adjustment to new conditions. ☐ Dr Dimitrov's program is too radical. It supports conditional private property, maintaining of kolkhozes and nationalization of industry. The Bulgarian peasant does not want any kolkhozes, is greatly attached to his land, and does not want any half-solutions. 50X1-HUM
- Monarchy or Republic 50X1-HUM
19. ☐ Only Dr Dimitrov's supporters take a definite stand on a future political system of Bulgaria. They are supporting a republic. For the rest of the population this problem does not exist at present. ☐ first it will be necessary to liberate the country from Communism, and only then can it be decided by the people themselves what political system will be adopted. Even Dimitrov's supporters do not engage in any active propaganda for the republic and do not have quarrels with the rest of the population on this matter. They are all united in their desire for liberation first. 50X1-HUM

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Emigres

20. "The population does not know much about the exiles and what they are doing. People think that they are united, just as united as the whole nation, that they defend the Bulgarian interests in the West, and that in a future conflict they will march in the forefront of the liberating forces. The Communists try to talk and write as little as possible about the exiles. The Bulgarians know nothing about all the divisions among the emigres."

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